

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants are submitting replacement drawings. The replacement drawings include revised Figs. 3, 8, and 17. In revised Fig. 3, reference numerals 246 and 242 are added. In revised Fig. 8, formal reference numeral 378 was changed to reference numeral 370a. In Fig. 17, reference numeral 400 was changed to 500, and reference numeral 401 was changed to 501.

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action mailed June 4, 2009. By way of this response, Applicants have revised the drawings, revised the specification, amended claim 22, cancelled claim 27, and added new claims 44-53. Applicants have also submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

A. Drawings

The drawings were objected to for a variety of minor informalities. Applicants have rectified each of the informalities. In particular:

In Fig. 8, reference numeral 378 has been changed to 370a;

In Fig. 17, reference numeral 400 has been changed to 500;

In Fig. 17, reference numeral 401 has been changed to 501;

The reference to reference numerals 67 and 68 on page 19, line 31, has been deleted;

The reference to reference numeral 189 on page 26, line 18 has been changed to 188;

Reference numeral 246 has been added to Fig. 3;

The last line of page 11 has been revised to change reference numeral 53 to 55.

In view of these revisions, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

B. Specification

The specification was objected to for minor informalities. Applicants have amended the specification in the manner suggested by the Examiner. In view of these revisions, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

C. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claim 22 was rejected as being indefinite because the limitation "the housing seal support" has insufficient antecedent basis. The Examiner suggested changing the language to be -- the seal support--.

Applicants have amended claim 22 to adopt the suggestion by the Examiner. Applicants have also ensured that all of the newly added claims comply with §112, second paragraph, in this manner.

In view of this Amendment, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under §112, second paragraph.

D. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 22, 23, 26, 30, and 34-36 were rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. 6,350,291 to Gieseke et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0146149 to Binder et al.

Applicants disagree with the properness of these rejections. It is believed that not all of the limitations are taught or suggested. Further, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to combine the references and result in the claimed invention, as set forth in the Office Action. Further, it is respectfully submitted that one or more of the references teaches away from the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, to avoid the delay of patent protection due to the administrative burden of appeal, and to avoid expenses, Applicants have amended independent claim 22 to include the subject matter of allowed dependent claim 27. Dependent claim 27 has been cancelled. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections based on obviousness are rendered moot, and withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims of the scope of the rejected claims in further Continuation or Divisional applications.

Claims 23-26 and 28-37 depend upon and further limit independent claim 22. It is respectfully submitted that each of these dependent claims is allowable at least for depending upon an allowable independent claim.

E. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 24, 25, 27-29, 31-33, and 37 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner allowed claims 38-43.

As mentioned above, independent claim 22 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 27. In addition, new claims 44-53 have been added. New claim 44 includes the scope of original claim 33. New claim 49 includes the scope of original claim 24. New claim 50 includes the scope of original claim 25. New claim 51 includes the scope of original claim 28. New claim 52 includes the scope of original claim 29. New claim 53 includes the scope of original claim 31. It is respectfully submitted that each of these new claims is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action.

F. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner has requested to consider the information cited therein and indicated his consideration with the next communication from the Office.

G. Summary

In summary, claims 22-26 and 28-53 are pending. Each of the independent claims is of a scope that has already been considered allowable by the Examiner. Applicants have amended the drawings and specification to correct the minor informalities.

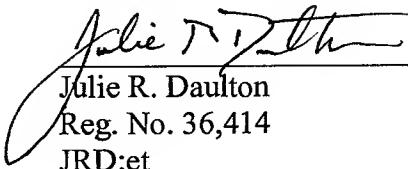
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 336-4724

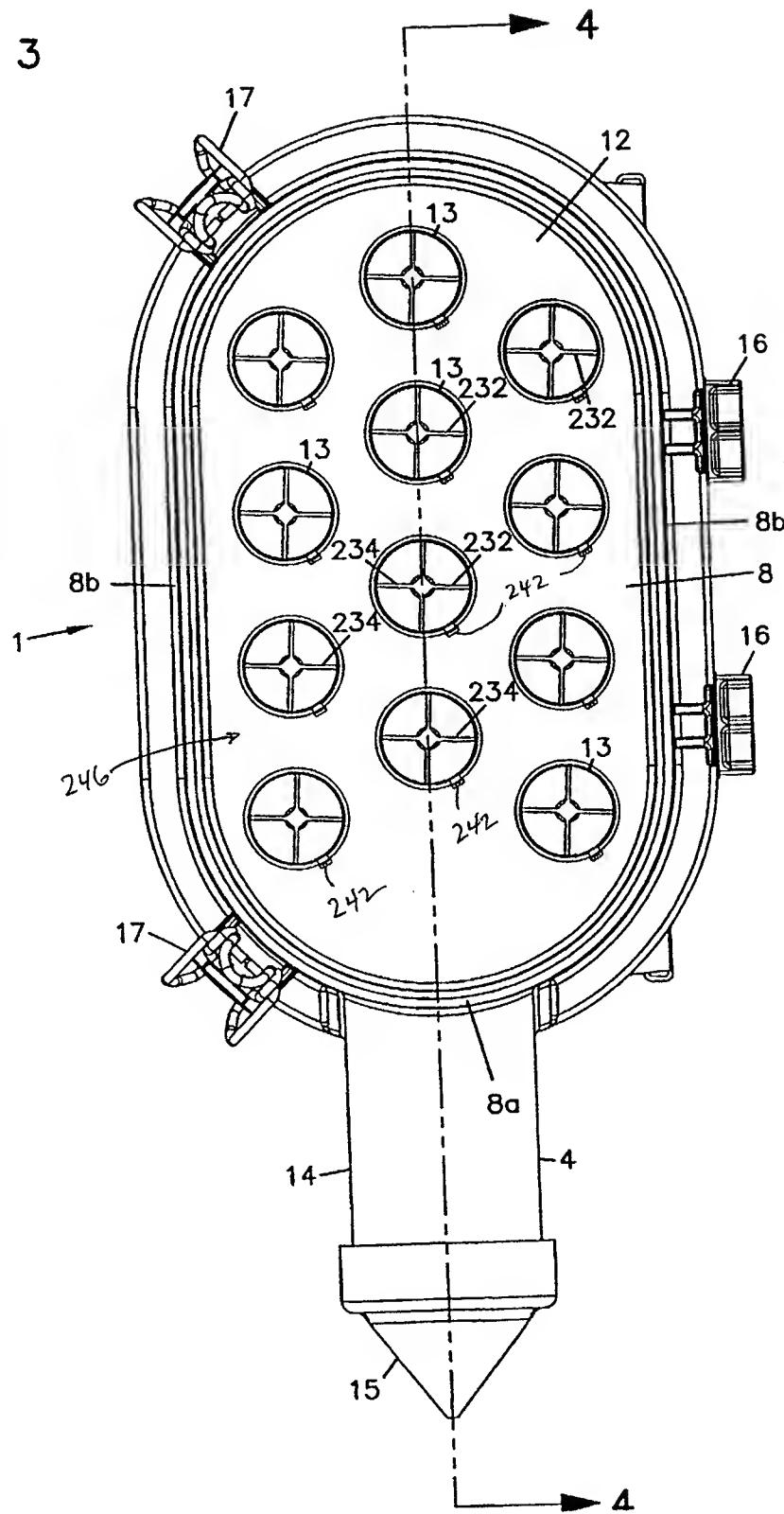
Date: 29 July 2009



Julie R. Daulton
Reg. No. 36,414
JRD:et

APPENDIX

FIG. 3



ANNOTATED SHEET
Inventor: KRISKO et al.
Serial No. 10/587,766
Docket No.: 00758.1665USWO
Title: FILTER ELEMENTS; AIR CLEANER; ASSEMBLY; AND, METHODS
Attorney Name: Julie R. Daulton
Sheet 8 of 17

FIG. 7A

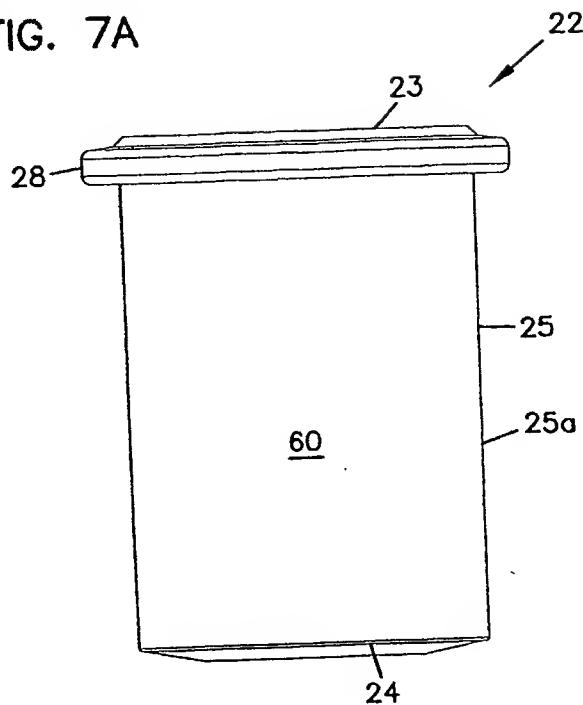
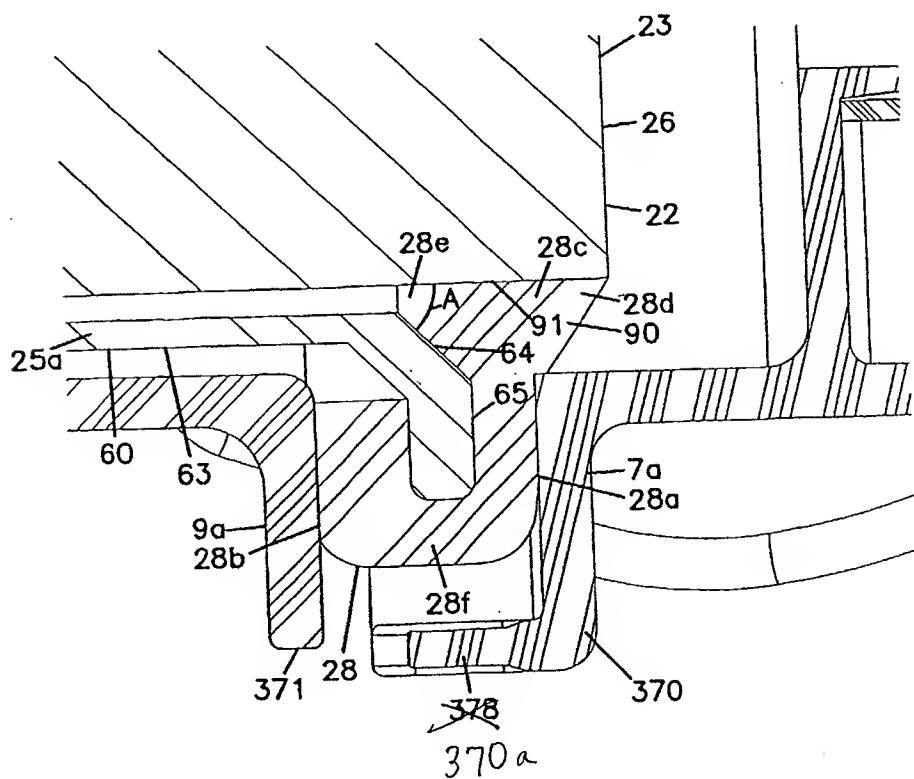


FIG. 8



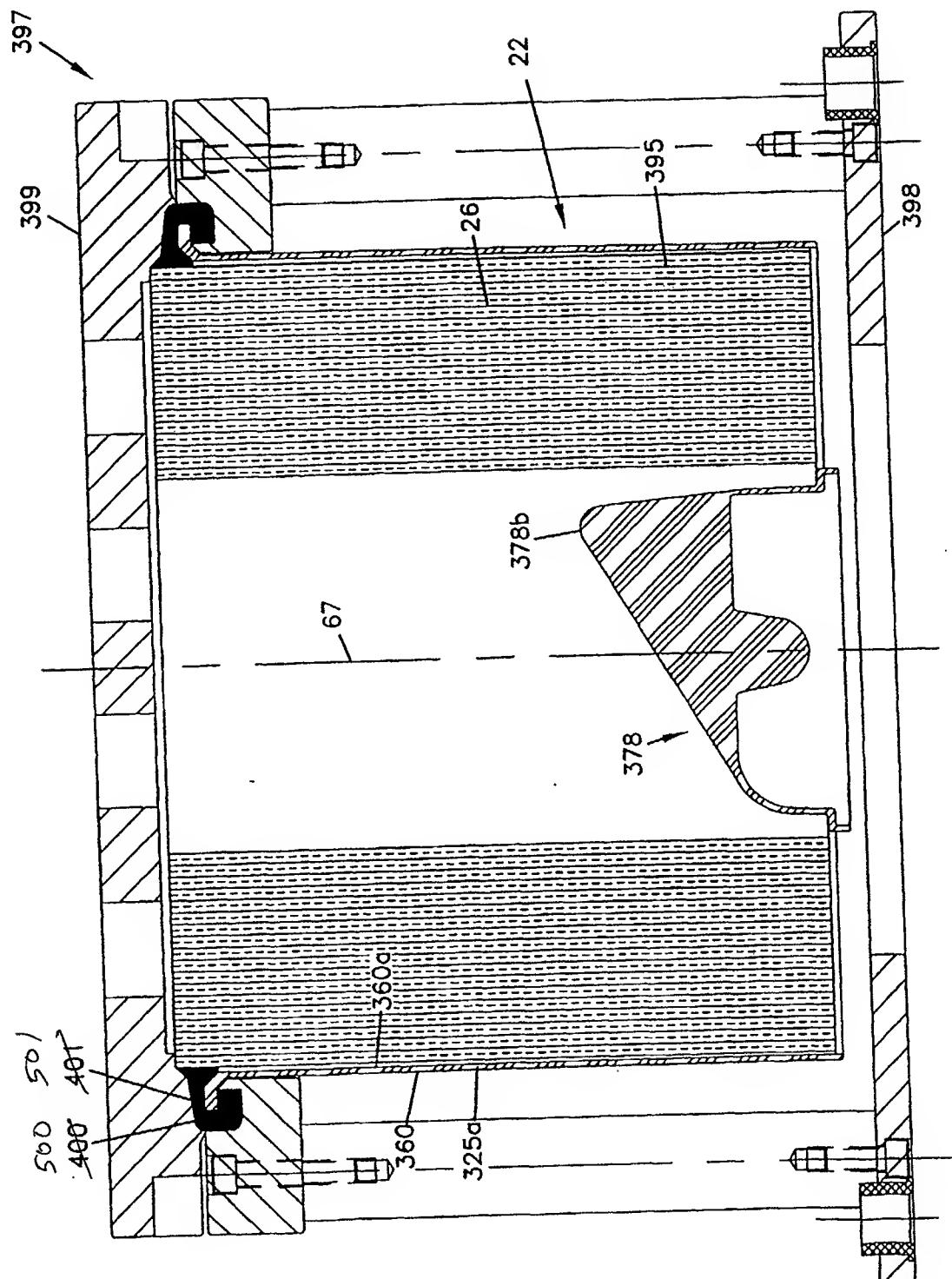


FIG. 17